The salt factory at Silver Springs is said to have been established about fifty years ago. The waste salt and brine has been, and still is being, dumped into Wolf Creek, with the result that its water is very salty from Silver Springs to where it enters the Genesee River, a distance of about three miles.

In this artificial saline habitat a number of salt plants have appeared. *Spartina patens* occurred in a pure stand over an area about thirty meters in diameter. Around the border of this area it was mixed with *Juncus Gerardii*. *Salicornia europaea* L., *Juncus Gerardii* and *Chenopodium glaucum* L. were common in a number of places along the shore of the stream. *Ruppia maritima* L. was very abundant in the stream, in some places completely covering the bottom of the stream for a distance of several hundred meters. *Enteromorpha intestinalis* (L.) Grev., a common green alga of the seashores, made a very profuse growth on the stones and other objects in Wolf Creek. In several places near the village of Castile where the water was flowing rapidly, its fronds attained a length of about one meter.

The observations here reported were made on August 30 and October 23, 1926. Specimens of the phanerogams mentioned, with determinations verified by Professor K. M. Wiegand, are deposited in the herbarium of Cornell University.

Cornell University.

Soil Reaction of Saxifraga Aizoon on Mt. Katahdin.—In the note by Mr. Stebbins on plants new to Mt. Katahdin in the January number of Rhodora[1] he calls attention to the possibility that there may be a pocket of rich soil at the point where the *Saxifraga* and *Draba* are growing. I am glad to report that his view is correct. At the time when the first of these plants was originally discovered, Dr. I. M. Johnston turned over to me some of the soil attached to the roots, as received at the Gray Herbarium, and on testing it with the double-wedge comparator I found it to be exactly neutral. The lime producing this condition in the soil may have come from a local concentration of calcium minerals in the granite—which is well known to occur elsewhere in Maine, especially on Mt. Desert Island—or may have been set free by unusually thorough decomposition of the humus at this point. The thing most difficult to account for

[1] Rhodora xxix. 15–16 (1927).

would seem to be the manner in which the seeds of these circumneutral soil species managed to "find" this favorable spot in the middle of a vast area of soils too acid to permit the plants to thrive.—EDGAR T. WHERRY, Washington, D. C.

Vol. 29, no. 342, including pages 97 to 116, was issued 22 June, 1927.